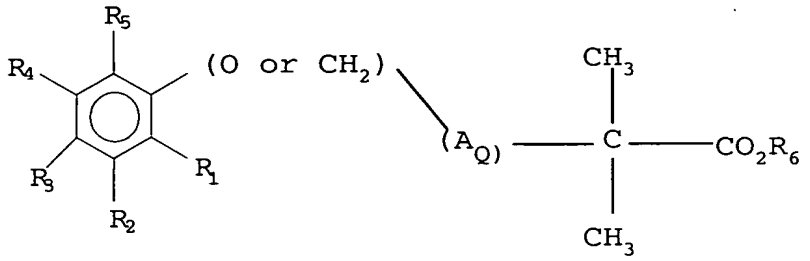
Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting growth of a bacterium which consists essentially of contacting the bacterium with a compound having the structure:



(i) wherein each of R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5 and R_6 ~~comprises~~ is independently selected from the group consisting of H, F, Cl, Br, I, -OH, $-OR_7$, -CN, $-COR_7$, $-SR_7$, $-N(R_7)_2$, $-NR_7COR_8$, $-NO_2$, $-(CH_2)_pOR_7$, ~~$-(CH_2)_pX(R_7)_2$, $-(CH_2)_p XR_7COR_8$~~, $-(CH_2)_p(R_7)_2$, $-(CH_2)_p R_7COR_8$, a straight chain or branched, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl, C_3-C_{10} cycloalkenyl, thioalkyl, methylene thioalkyl, acyl, phenyl, substituted phenyl, ~~or~~ and heteroaryl; ~~wherein a linkage to the benzene ring may alternatively be N , S , O or C ;~~ (ii) wherein each of R_7 and R_8 ~~may be~~ is independently selected from the group consisting of H, F, Cl, Br, I, -OH, -CN, -COH, $-SH_2$, $-NH_2$, -NHCOH, $-(CH_2)_pOH$, ~~$-(CH_2)_pX(CH_2)$, $-(CH_2)_pXCOH$~~, $-(CH_2)_p(CH_2)$, $-(CH_2)_pCOH$, a straight chain or branched, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl, C_3-C_{10} cycloalkenyl, thioalkyl, methylene thioalkyl, acyl, phenyl, substituted phenyl, ~~or~~ and heteroaryl; (iii) wherein A ~~may be~~ is independently selected from the group consisting of $-N_2-$, -NH-, -CH=C=CH-, -C≡C-CHOH-, $-C\equiv C-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-O-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-$, -S-,

$-S(=O)_2-$, $-C(=O)-$, $-C(=O)-O-$, $-NH-C(=O)-$ and $-C(=O)-NH-$; ~~and~~ (iv) wherein each of Q~~,~~ and p~~,~~ ~~n and X may~~ is independently ~~be~~ an integer from 1 to 10, or if Q is 1 A comprises a (C_1-C_{10})-alkyl chain, $-(C_2-C_{10})$-alkenyl chain, $-(C_2-C_{10})$-alkylene chain, or $-(C_2-C_{10})$-alkynyl chain which is branched or unbranched, substituted or unsubstituted and can optionally be interrupted 1 to 3 times by -O- or -S- or -N-; and (v) wherein the linkage to the benzene ring by R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 is independently selected from the group consisting of -N-, -S-, -O- and -C-;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, which compound is present in a concentration effective to inhibit growth of the bacterium.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein A ~~comprises~~ is independently selected from the group consisting of an $-(C_2-C_{10})$-alkylene chain, (C_1-C_{10})-alkyl chain, $-(C_2-C_{10})$-alkenyl chain or $-(C_2-C_{10})$-alkynyl chain which is branched or unbranched, substituted or unsubstituted and can optionally be interrupted 1 to 3 times by -O- or -S- or -N-.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein

~~$R_1 = R_4 = CH_3$ or OH,~~

~~$R_2 = R_3 = R_5 = R_6 = H$ or OH,~~

$R_1 = CH_3$ or -OH,

$R_4 = CH_3$ or -OH,

$R_2 = H$ or -OH,

$R_3 = H$ or -OH,

$R_5 = H$ or -OH,

$R_6 = H$ or -OH,

$A = CH_2$,

and ~~Q = 3~~ Q = 1.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein

R_3 = Cl,

~~R_1 , R_2 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 = H or OH,~~

R_1 = H or -OH,

R_2 = H or -OH,

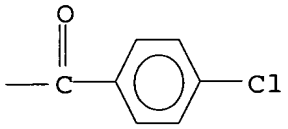
R_4 = H or -OH,

R_5 = H or -OH,

R_6 = H or -OH,

and ~~Q = 0~~ Q = 1.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein

R_3 = 

R_6 = $CH(CH_3)_2$,

~~R_1 = R_2 = R_4 = R_5 = H or OH,~~

R_1 = H or -OH,

R_2 = H or -OH,

R_4 = H or -OH,

R_5 = H or -OH,

and ~~Q = 0~~ Q = 1.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein

R_3 = Cl,

R_6 = C_2H_5,

~~R_1 = R_2 = R_4 = R_5 = H or OH,~~

R_1 = H or -OH,

R_2 = H or -OH,

R_4 = H or -OH,

R_5 = H or -OH,

and ~~Q = 0~~ Q = 1.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the bacterium is *Legionella pneumophila, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Bacillus subtilis, Bacillus Megaterium, Pseudomonas Oleovorans, Alcaligenes eutrophus, Rhodococcus sp., Citrobacter freundi, Group A Streptococcus sp., Coag neg Staphylococcus aureus* or *Nocardia sp.*

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the bacterium is *Legionella pneumophila*.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the bacterium is *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the bacterium is in a eukaryotic cell.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the compound is from about 5 µg/ml to about 100 µg/ml.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the compound is 20 µg/ml.

13-59. (canceled).

60. (previously presented) A method for inhibiting growth of a

bacterium which consists essentially of contacting the bacterium with gemfibrozil in a concentration effective to inhibit growth of the bacterium.

61. (previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the bacterium is *Legionella pneumophila, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Bacillus subtilis, Bacillus Megaterium, Pseudomonas Oleovorans, Alcaligenes eutrophus, Rhodococcus sp., Citrobacter freundi, Group A Streptococcus sp., Coag neg Staphylococcus aureus* or *Nocardia sp.*

62. (previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the bacterium is *Legionella pneumophila.*

63. (previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the bacterium is *Mycobacterium tuberculosis.*

64. (previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the bacterium is in a eukaryotic cell.

65. (previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the concentration of gemfibrozil is from about 5 µg/ml to about 100 µg/ml.

66. (previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the concentration of gemfibrozil is 20 µg/ml.

67. (currently amended) A method for treating ~~alleviating the symptoms of~~ a bacterial infection in a subject which consists essentially of administering to the subject an amount of gemfibrozil in a concentration effective to inhibit bacterial growth and thus treat ~~alleviate the symptoms of~~ the bacterial

infection in the subject.

68. (previously presented) The method of claim 67, wherein the bacterial infection is associated with *Legionella pneumophila, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Bacillus subtilis, Bacillus Megaterium, Pseudomonas Oleovorans, Alcaligenes eutrophus, Rhodococcus sp., Citrobacter freundi, Group A Streptococcus sp., Coag neg Staphylococcus aureus* or *Nocardia sp*.

69. (previously presented) The method of claim 67, wherein the bacterial infection is associated with *Legionella pneumophila*.

70. (previously presented) The method of claim 67, wherein the bacterial infection is associated with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

71. (previously presented) The method of claim 67, wherein the subject is a human or an animal.

72. (previously presented) The method of claim 67, wherein the bacterial infection is associated with Leprosy, Brucella or Salmonella.

73. (previously presented) The method of claim 67, wherein the concentration of gemfibrozil is from about 5 µg/ml blood of the subject to about 180 µg/ml blood of the subject.

74. (previously presented) The method of claim 67, wherein the concentration of gemfibrozil is 90 µg/ml blood of the subject.

75. (previously presented) The method of claim 67, wherein the administration to the subject is oral.

76. (cancelled)

77. (cancelled)

78. (currently amended) A method for determining whether or not a bacterium is sensitive to gemfibrozil which ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of contacting the bacterium with a concentration of gemfibrozil known to inhibit the growth of *Legionella pneumophila* ~~effective to inhibit growth of the bacterium~~ and determining whether growth inhibition has occurred ~~if the bacterium is sensitive to gemfibrozil~~, thereby determining whether or not the bacterium is sensitive to the gemfibrozil.

79. (previously presented) The method of claim 78, wherein the bacterium is in a cell.

80. (previously presented) The method of claim 78, wherein the bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Legionella pneumophila, Bacillus subtilis, Caulobacter crescentus, Citrobacter freundi, Nocardia sp., Rhodobacter spheroides, Group A Streptococcus sp., Coag neg Staphylococcus aureus* and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

81. (previously presented) The method of claim 78, wherein the concentration of the gemfibrozil is from about 5µg/ml to about 100µg/ml.

82. (previously presented) The method of claim 78, wherein the concentration of the gemfibrozil is 20 µg/ml.